Reservoir Operations *Study*

air resources and climate

FACT SHEET

Impact Evaluation on Air Resources and Climate

The purpose of the study is to determine if changes in TVA's reservoir system operating policies would produce greater overall public value.

Background

TVA is conducting a formal evaluation of its policies for operating the Tennessee River reservoir system, including an analysis of the economic impacts of any potential changes in these policies. Existing policies affect how much reservoir levels fluctuate, when changes in reservoir levels occur, and the amount of water flowing through the reservoir system at different times of the year, depending on rainfall.

The purpose of the study is to determine if changes in TVA's reservoir system operating policies would produce greater overall public value. Technical analyses will be performed to evaluate the impacts of TVA's current policies and the potential impacts of alternatives on a number of resource areas and other issues.

The two-year Reservoir Operations Study (ROS) is scheduled for completion in October 2003.

The impacts on air resources and climate will be evaluated as part of the ROS, and the results will be documented in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). TVA will conduct the study in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements.

Potential Impacts

- Changes in reservoir system operating policies could alter the availability and use of hydropower, thereby influencing the amounts and timing of emissions from fossil-fuel power plants. Any emissions increases would probably be greatest in late summer, when air pollution problems tend to be the greatest.

Geographic Area

- Tennessee and parts of Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi.

Scope of Analysis

- Changes in emissions of air pollutants from fossil-fuel power sources will be examined qualitatively for any effects on air resources. Trends in air pollutant emissions and in measured concentrations in the surrounding air will be considered, along with results from other applicable studies.
- Existing emissions data for fossil-fuel power plants will be used in this study as a basis for calculating the probable increases that would result from replacing hydropower with coal and natural-gas generation.
- Fossil-fuel power plants will be the primary data sources for analyses of emissions and greenhouse gases. Historical climate data from observation records will be used to evaluate climate variations and trends.

For More Information

To submit comments or get additional information, members of the public are invited to visit TVA's Web site at www.tva.com, to call toll-free 888-882-7675, to fax TVA at 865-632-3146, or to write to ROS Project Manager David Nye, Tennessee Valley Authority, c/o WT 11A, 400 West Summit Hill Dr., Knoxville, TN 37902.